United Nations A/63/731

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 February 2009

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 124
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2008

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 62/246 of 3 April 2008, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations for the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and the consideration of and action on the Unit's recommendations in the light of pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 59/267 of 23 December 2004, the General Assembly decided to discontinue the requirement for the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. The present note therefore outlines some of the recent steps taken to support the Unit, including through those measures identified in Assembly resolution 62/246.

3. In accordance with the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, when reports of the Unit concern more than one organization, the respective executive heads shall, normally within the framework of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, consult with one another and, to the extent possible, coordinate their comments. Accordingly, system-wide reports of the Unit are circulated for comment upon receipt by the secretariat of the Chief Executives Board. As a matter of practice, all participating organizations are requested to respond with their comments within the deadline provided in order that reports may be produced in a timely fashion.

4. With respect to the provision of expected support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of participating organizations, additional efforts have been taken, within the inter-agency bodies of the Chief Executives Board, to enhance the dialogue between the secretariats of the Unit and the Board. In particular, the High-level Committee on Management, at its sixteenth session held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2008, considered ways to enhance collaboration with the Unit

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including, inter alia, by encouraging its members to review communication procedures within their respective organizations so as to ensure a good information flow between High-level Committee on Management/network representatives and Unit focal points and coordinated action on the Unit's recommendations and programme of work (see CEB/2008/5, para. 57). One example of increased collaboration was the preparation of a JIU report on information and communication technology hosting services in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2008/5), which was prepared in close coordination and consultation with the Information, Communication and Technology Network of the High-level Committee on Management.

5. Furthermore, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, at the request of the Joint Inspection Unit, implemented an extensive consultation process for providing inputs (and suggestions) in respect of the Unit's programme of work for 2009. In respect of requests for comments and other inputs into the preparation of Unit reports, a closer informal working relationship between the two secretariats has resulted in both an increased responses rate and more involvement by organizations in the preparation of reports.

6. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, section E of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2008[1] contains detailed information about the actions taken by organizations of the Chief Executives Board in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit.

7. The Secretary-General will continue to pursue a closer working relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and to encourage all organizations to respond quickly and in a spirit of cooperation to requests of the Unit.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/63/34).